

# Across the Nation

## 1. WASHINGTON, D.C.



Queen Elizabeth II, right, meets with World War II veterans during her visit to the National WWII Memorial in Washington Tuesday.

### Queen salutes U.S. veterans

Queen Elizabeth II paid tribute to American soldiers Tuesday with a trip to the National World War II Memorial, winding up her six-day American visit. Later in the day, she concluded her visit by sharing a toast with President Bush celebrating the close alliance of Britain and the United States.

During her trip to the World War II memorial, the queen was accompanied by the president's father, former President George H.W. Bush, a veteran of the war, and his wife, Barbara. The queen placed a wreath in honor of the 400,000 U.S. soldiers who died. It said: "In memory of the glorious dead."

Afterward there was a drum roll and a bugler played taps.

Dressed in a sharp blue suit and hat, the queen then joined Mary Bomar, the British-born director of the National Park Service, for a walk around a fountain at the center of the memorial. They stopped to look at the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument before greeting veterans of World War II, some in wheelchairs.

It was the British monarch's first visit to the war memorial, which was dedicated in 2004.

### Real ID program postponed

A nationalized system for driver's licenses that was to take effect next year already had been postponed because of a backlash from Congress and several states, and the Senate began hearings Tuesday to consider repealing it altogether.

The Real ID Act was pitched as a homeland-security enhancement, added to a spending bill and passed by the Republican-led Congress in 2005.

To board commercial airlines or enter federal buildings, Americans would need to obtain new identification cards with beefed-up requirements to prove their legal status and verify their Social Security numbers, addresses and other information. States were to be ready by this time next year.

Two states have passed binding legislation to opt out: Montana and Washington. Six have passed resolutions opposing the law: Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine and North Dakota. Arizona, Georgia, New Hampshire and Oklahoma are poised to follow. Similar legislation has been introduced this year in another 20 states, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

### Poll shows Clinton in lead

Hillary Clinton is riding a surge that has her beating all comers, Democrat or Republican, thanks to Iraq and a strong start to her presidential campaign, polls say.

Four surveys in the past few days find the New York senator with double-digit national leads over fellow Democrats Barack Obama, John Edwards and non-candidate Al Gore.

The latest, a Marist College survey, has her with double the support of Obama or Edwards and with five-point leads on Sen. John McCain or ex-Mayor Rudy Giuliani in a general election match-up.

Obama may invade Clinton's turf, but Monday she's proclaiming New York is her house — with endorsements from every statewide official.

In a display of solidarity, Gov. Spitzer, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and Controller Tom DiNapoli will join other Democrats on the steps of the state Capitol to back Clinton's White House bid.



Clinton



Report compiled from news services

## 2. ALABAMA

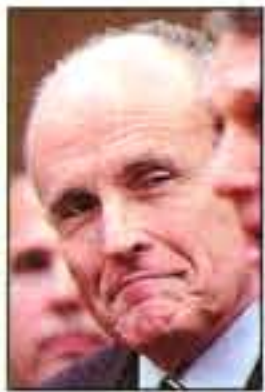
### Scrutiny over abortion issue

When Rudy Giuliani sweeps through the state today, he'll be greeted by some star-struck supporters, but they aren't ready to guarantee him their votes.

Giuliani's trip to the South comes a day after he denied he waffled on a **abortion** during last week's GOP debate, and a day after it was revealed that he made past contributions to Planned Parenthood. Abortion is a particularly perilous issue in the South.

Alabama Republican Party Executive Director John Ross said Giuliani will get a hero's welcome, but said that doesn't mean he has a lock on locals' support. "As the campaign goes on, some of the social issues — his position on gun control, his positions on abortion — are going to be addressed, and I think voters are going to make a decision based on that," Ross said. On abortion, "I don't think he answered the questions very well," Ross said. "I know it's a complicated answer to a lot of people — I know personally it is for me — but has he been clear? I don't think so."

Team Giuliani insists the former mayor's position has not wavered.



Giuliani

## 4. NORTH CAROLINA

### Taking oaths on Quran?

The issue of allowing court witnesses and others who take oaths to use a holy text other than the King James version of the Bible may be decided in upcoming days after arguments heard Tuesday in Wake Superior Court.

Judge Paul Ridgeway did not issue a ruling in the case, which has been brewing in North Carolina since 2005, but took the arguments under advisement. The N.C. statutes allow jurors or witnesses in court proceedings to swear on "Holy Scriptures," but courtrooms across the state provide only the King James Bible, acceptable to Christians. The state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union says the state must allow people who aren't Christian to take an oath on their particular holy text or rule the "Holy Scriptures" law unconstitutional.

Although state statutes allow witnesses or jurors raise their hand or affirm to tell the truth, the ACLU argues that that discriminates against religious people of non-Christian faiths.

## 5. TEXAS

### Target young with drug mix

In their quest to lure new, younger clientele, drug dealers are mixing their wares with over-the-counter pain remedies and other familiar products — even candy — and peddling them under non-threatening names. One such concoction, a blend of black tar heroin and Tylenol PM that goes by the name "cheese," has been linked to the deaths of 19 teenagers in Dallas, including two 15-year-olds.

"If you're a drug dealer you have to target a new audience all the time," said Garrison Courtney, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency spokesman. "It's Marketing 101 for drug dealers."

"They're calling it 'cheese,' they're not calling it 'heroin,'" said Dr. Collin Goto, a toxicologist at Children's Medical Center Dallas. "It becomes much more appealing to younger kids because it doesn't have the stigma, they're not as afraid to get started."

Experts say cheese usually has about 2 percent to 8 percent heroin mixed with the Tylenol PM — which contains acetaminophen and diphenhydramine — or similar over-the-counter drugs.



'Cheese' heroin is a mixture of black tar heroin, a less refined form of the drug, and ground up Tylenol PM.

## 6. NEVADA

### Helicopter crash kills five

Navy helicopter struck a power line during a training flight and crashed in a rugged area of the northern Nevada desert, killing all five crew members, the Navy said Tuesday.

The SH-60F helicopter, flying out of Naval Air Station Fallon, went down late Monday about 10 miles west of Austin, base spokesman Zip Upham said.

Faye Andersen, a spokeswoman for Sierra Pacific Power Co., said the chopper severed a static wire atop a 100-foot tall transmission line.

Names of the crew members were withheld pending the notification of their relatives.

## 7. KANSAS



Cherri Koehn salvages items from what remains of the kitchen of her sister Fay Miller's home in Greensburg, Kan., Tuesday.

### But, should we rebuild?

For five years, Omero Carrillo worked on his old home, studying period decor, painting and refinishing floors, only to see the tornado that leveled most of this town reduce it to rubble in a moment. He's facing the same question nearly everyone here is: Will he rebuild?

"Right now, we don't know," he said Tuesday as he sifted through the debris of the first home he ever bought.

The Friday night storm left 11 people dead and destroyed more than 90 percent of Greensburg, leaving it a wasteland of stripped trees, downed and splintered utility poles and flattened homes and businesses. The Kiowa County Courthouse and the tallest building in town, the Southern Plains Co-op's 160-foot grain elevator, were among the few buildings that remained standing.

Before the storm hit, Greensburg was facing the problem of an aging and declining population, mirroring Midwestern trends. The 2000 census said more than a quarter of its residents were 65 or older; its population peaked at nearly 2,000 in 1960 and has declined to about 1,400.

## 8. CALIFORNIA



Fresno State students walk toward University Village to retrieve personal belongings as a SWAT team heads out after a shooting incident in Fresno Tuesday. Police and federal agents launched a manhunt for a college student who allegedly opened fire at an apartment near California State University, Fresno, killing one man and wounding two others in a dispute over a Playstation video game console.

### Student suspect in shooting

Acquaintances described Jonquel Brooks as an accomplished student and a goofy teenager who wanted to be a parole officer. But authorities said he killed a man over a video game console.

They said Brooks, a freshman at California State University, Fresno, opened fire during a dispute over the console, killing one man and wounding two others, before leading police and federal agents on a manhunt.

Brooks, 19, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of murder and assault with a deadly weapon. He was being held in lieu of \$3 million bail.

One of the wounded men, returning home with a bloody bandage on his left shoulder, said the dispute started when he and the other victims accused Brooks of stealing a Sony Playstation console and game.

## 9. NEW JERSEY



A guard checks identification at a Fort Dix Army base gate, Tuesday near Wrightstown, N.J. Six men described by federal prosecutors as "Islamic militants" have been arrested on charges they plotted to attack the Fort Dix Army base and "kill as many soldiers as possible."

### Clerk's tip key to foiling plot

One drove a cab, three were roofers. Another worked at a 7-Eleven and a sixth at a supermarket. Their alleged plot to attack Fort Dix was foiled by another blue-collar worker: a video store clerk.

Six foreign-born Muslims were accused Tuesday of planning to assault the Army base and slaughter scores of U.S. soldiers with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades.

The unidentified clerk is being credited with tipping off authorities in January 2006 after one of the suspects asked him to transfer a video to DVD that showed 10 men shooting weapons at a firing range and calling for jihad, prosecutors said.

Authorities said there was no direct evidence connecting the men to any international terror organizations such as al-Qaida. But several of them said they were ready to kill and die "in the name of Allah," prosecutors said in court papers. Four of the arrested men were born in the former Yugoslavia, one was born in Jordan and one came from Turkey, authorities said. Three were in the United States illegally; two had green cards allowing them to stay in this country permanently; and the sixth is a U.S. citizen.

## Terror plot stopped

Six men, all from the former Yugoslavia, were arrested early Tuesday on charges they plotted to attack the Fort Dix Army base and kill as many soldiers as possible.



SOURCE: ESRI

## 10. WISCONSIN

### Gas discounts for seniors

A service station that offered discounted gas to senior citizens and people supporting youth sports has been ordered by the state to raise its prices.

Center City BP owner Raj Bhandari has been offering senior citizens a 2 cents per gallon price break and discount cards that let sports boosters pay 3 cents less per gallon. But the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection says those deals violate Wisconsin's Unfair Sales Act, which requires stations to sell gas for about 9.2 percent more than the wholesale price.

Bhandari said he received a letter from the state auditor last month saying the state would sue him if he did not raise his prices.

## 11. SOUTH CAROLINA

### Burger with a real bite

Cracker Barrel and a hamburger supplier were investigating after a patron in South Carolina reported cutting her mouth on a piece of metal embedded in a patty, causing the chain to pull burgers from hundreds of restaurants.

Myrtle Beach police said Irene Grann, 56, was taken to a hospital Saturday night after she began bleeding from her mouth. She complained that something was stuck in her throat after eating part of a burger, police said. The restaurant manager collected a half-eaten hamburger from Grann's table and told police he took a piece of a razor blade from the middle of the patty, according to a police report.